



'You Have To Love Them Enough To Let Them Be Wild' shortlisted for 2017 Montreal Poetry Prize and published in Global Poetry Anthology

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You Have to Love Them Enough to Let Them Be Wild

That's what Steve said
about the mustangs
up on Pryor Mountain –

no sugar cubes, no carrots
no coaxing, stroking, gentling
no whispering

no ropes, no tires, no pick up trucks
no dust storm swing low choppers
no Judas horse

no gathering, no holding pens
no PZP, no freeze brand
no breaking in, no putting down

no auction block, no slaughterhouse
no flank strap, no fast track
no stockyard, no consignment

no snaffles, bridles, saddles, spurs
no blankets, shoes, or blinders
no rodeo, no latigo, no cincha

no clipping, combing, currying
no conchos, braids or bells
no ranches, no reata

no binder twine for breech births
no ligatures, no doctoring
of tears & rends & bites

no vaccination, no inoculation
no sterilization
no intervention

just bales & bales
of air
seep water, galleta grass

the animal vegetable mineral
earth
exacting, punishing, available

KATHLEEN MCCracken